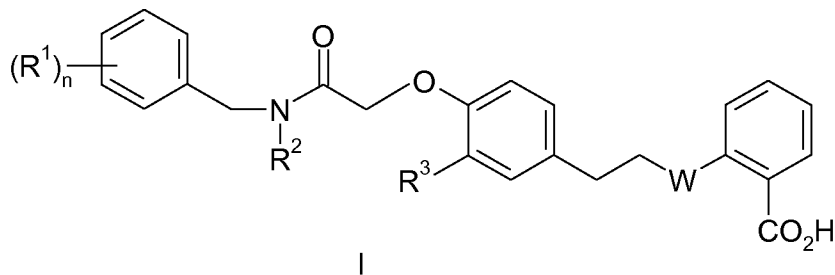


Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 1-10; and add new claim 11 as follows.

1. (currently amended) A compound of ~~formula I~~ formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or an *in vivo* cleavable ester thereof, wherein ~~wherein~~:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R¹ represents halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro and wherein when n is 2 the substituents R¹ may be the same or different;

R² represents an unbranched C₂₋₇alkyl group;

R³ represents H or OCH₃; and

W represents O or S;

~~and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.~~

2. (currently amended) A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1 wherein W is O.

3. (currently amended) A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1 wherein W is S.

4. (currently amended) A compound selected from:

2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}-3-methoxyphenyl)-ethoxy]benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethylthio]benzoic acid;

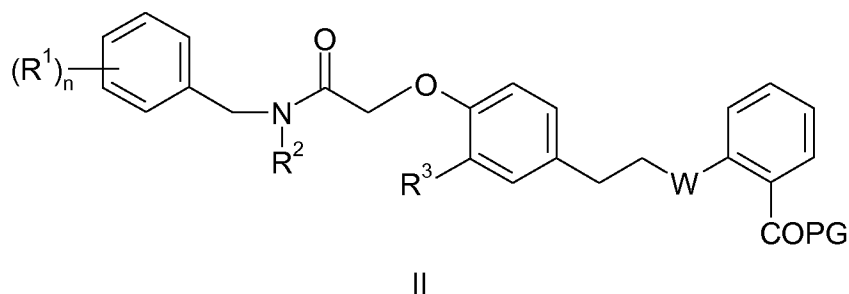
2-[2-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;
2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(4-trifluoromethylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid ;
2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(4-trifluoromethylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethylthio]benzoic acid ;
2-{2-[4-(2-{butyl[2-fluoro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]-ethoxy}benzoic acid;
2-[2-(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(propyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;
2-[2-(4-{2-[benzyl(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;
2-{[2-(4-{2-[benzyl(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl]thio}benzoic acid;
2-[2-(4-{2-[(4-*tert*-butylbenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;
2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;
2-{[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl]thio}benzoic acid;
[[or]] and
2-{[2-(4-{2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl]thio}benzoic acid,
[[and]] or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[salts]] salt thereof.

5. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ any one of claims 1 to 4 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, ~~adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers~~.

6. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ insulin resistance comprising ~~the administration of~~ administering a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 to a mammal in need thereof.

7. (currently amended) A method of treating insulin resistance comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition that comprises ~~The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of insulin resistance and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.~~

8. (currently amended) A process to prepare a compound of formula I of claim 1 which comprises reacting a compound of formula [[II]] II:



~~in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , W and n are as previously defined and~~

wherein:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R^1 represents halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro and wherein when n is 2 the substituents R^1 may be the same or different;

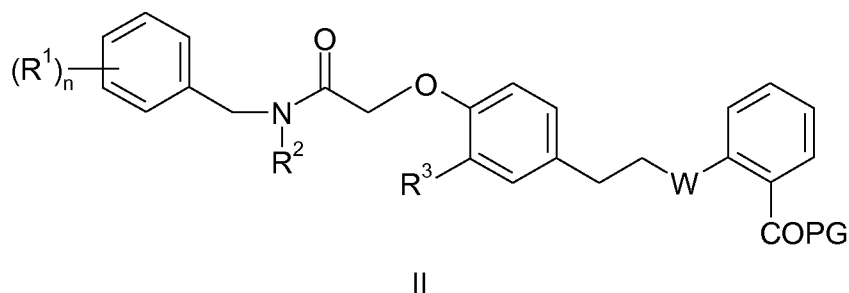
R^2 represents an unbranched C_{2-7} alkyl group;

R^3 represents H or OCH_3 ;

W represents O or S; and

PG represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy [[group]] group,
with a de-protecting agent.

9. (original) A compound of formula II ~~as described in claim 8. II:~~



wherein:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R^1 represents halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro and wherein when n is 2 the substituents R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2 represents an unbranched C_{2-7} alkyl group;

R^3 represents H or OCH_3 ;

W represents O or S; and

PG represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group.

10. (currently amended) A combination treatment comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in combination with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of ~~disorders~~ a disorder associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis ~~such as hypertension~~, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.

11. (new) The combination treatment of claim 10 wherein the atherosclerosis is hypertension.